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10¢

TOM CORBETT

# SPACE CADET



**WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM**

# SPACE ACADEMY

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PLANETS!**



Located in the United States of America, a member nation of the Commonwealth of Earth, this is the most exciting school of the world of the future. On Earth, on Mars, on Venus—there was no prouder title than that of Space Academy Cadet!

Applicants to Space Academy came from every corner of the Earth, from the deserts of Mars, from the jungles of Venus, from the far-flung colonies in space.

But before a boy could be admitted to Space Academy, he had to pass some of the hardest tests ever invented: in character and intelligence, in knowledge of all the sciences and history, in physical stamina to withstand the rigors of space travel!

Only the finest are chosen to become Space Cadets . . . and begin the intensive training for future duty as Solar Guards!

# TOM CORBETT SPACE CADET

IN THE YEAR 2351,  
COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT AND CAPTAIN  
STRONG STAND ON THE OBSERVATION  
PLATFORM OF THE SPACE ACADEMY IN  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AS A  
ROCKET CRUISER JETS EARTHWARDS...

THERE'S THE X-70,  
RIGHT ON SCHEDULE,  
STRONG!

I WISH I WAS GUIDING IT IN AS  
ORIGINALLY PLANNED! BUT I  
GUESS LIEUTENANT THOMAS  
IS GETTING AS MUCH KICK  
OUT OF RIDING THE NEW GROUP  
OF CADETS IN AS I WOULD  
HAVE!





AS THE X-70  
SUDDENLY  
LURCHES  
OUT OF  
CONTROL

BY THE RINGS OF  
SATURN, TOM, THAT  
PILOT LIKES TO  
PLAY ROUGH!

LOOK --- HE'S  
FALLING FROM  
HIS SEAT! HE'S OUT  
COLD, ASTRO!



THAT EXPLAINS  
THE BUMPS!

IF WE DON'T  
TAKE OVER FAST, WE'RE  
IN FOR A REAL  
BUMP --- THE  
ACADEMY IS RIGHT  
BELOW!



I'VE FLOWN SPACE  
FREIGHTERS, I'LL  
TAKE A TRY AT THE  
CONTROLS, BUT THE  
DIALS LOOK TOO  
COMPLICATED  
FOR ME!

TAKE THE PILOT'S  
SEAT! I'LL GIVE YOU  
A READING! WE'VE  
GOT TO NOSE UP  
*FAST!*



ROCKET POWER, NINETY THOUSAND TO THE  
SQUARE INCH! WE'RE AT TWENTY-THREE  
HUNDRED FEET --- TWENTY-ONE ---  
TWO THOUSAND --- STILL  
*FALLING!*



I'VE PUNCHED THE  
STABILIZER CONTROL  
TABS! THE JET BRAKES  
ARE ON --- IT'S  
GOT TO PULL US UP!

NO, ASTRO!  
WE'RE STILL  
NOSED DOWN!



BY JUPITER! WHOEVER LET  
YOU SPACEBUGS IN HERE  
TO PLAY\* YOU'LL  
KILL US ALL!

SORRY, ROGER!  
CAN'T STOP TO  
ARGUE OR WE  
MIGHT HAVE TO  
FINISH UP THE  
TALK IN THE  
NEXT WORLD!



DO YOU  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE DOING?

WE'LL FIND OUT  
SOON ENOUGH!  
THE AUXILIARY  
BRAKING JETS  
ARE ON!

--THAT  
DOES  
IT!  
WE'RE  
RISING  
UP!



**S**UDDENLY, THE  
DOOMED SHIP  
SWEEPS SKY-  
WARDS.



THOMAS MUST HAVE  
SNAPPED OUT OF IT  
IN TIME---NO RAW  
RECRUIT COULD  
BRING HER IN  
THAT WELL!



**T**HE X-70 COMES TO REST, THE LANDING LADDER SLIDES  
DOWN AND THE HATCH SWINGS OPEN.

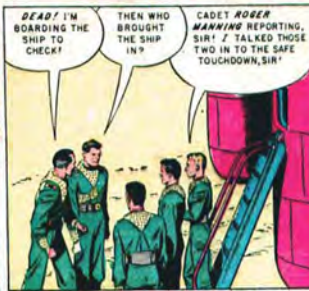
ASTRO, I THOUGHT *TOM  
CORBETT'S* CAREER AS  
A SPACE CADET WAS GOING  
TO BEGIN AND END IN ONE  
GLORIOUS DAY!

BY THE CRATERS  
OF LUNA, TOM, I  
DIDN'T COME ALL  
THE WAY FROM  
VENUS TO BE  
BURIED ON  
EARTH!



WHERE'S LIEUTENANT  
THOMAS?

IN THE CONTROL  
ROOM, SIR! I-I'M  
AFRAID HE'S  
DEAD!



**D**EAD! I'M  
BOARDING THE  
SHIP TO  
CHECK!

THEN WHO  
BROUGHT  
THE SHIP  
IN?

CADET *ROGER  
MANNING* REPORTING,  
SIR! I TALKED THOSE  
TWO IN TO THE SAFE  
TOUCHDOWN, SIR!

YOU TALKED US IN! YOU MEAN YOU JUST TALKED!

I WOULDN'T WANT TO TAKE FULL CREDIT, SIR---

--- WHY ANY CREDIT, MANNING?

JUST A MINUTE! WE DON'T TOLERATE FIGHTING AT THE ACADEMY! WE EXPECT OUR CADETS TO BE TRUTHFUL! IF MANNING SAYS HE SUPERVISED THE LANDING, WELL DONE, CADET! NOW MARCH THE GROUP OFF TO THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING!

A-YE, SIR!

AS THE CADETS MARCH OFF...

HE'S DEAD, STRONG! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! THOMAS WAS IN THE PRIME OF LIFE AND ABSOLUTELY FIT!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, COMMANDER! WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE TEST LAB'S REPORT TO LEARN THE CAUSE!

DOCTOR DALE!

JOAN, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO HERE NOW, LET'S GO BACK!

I-I HEARD THE NEWS! THANK HEAVENS THE CADETS LANDED SAFELY! STEVE, I KEEP THINKING IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN YOU!

I ONLY WISH I HAD FLOWN THE CRUISER AS SCHEDULED, THEN THIS MIGHT NOT HAVE HAPPENED!

YOU WERE ASSIGNED MORE IMPORTANT WORK, STRONG, CHECKING EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR EXPLORATION OF SATURN'S SATELLITE, TITAN! NO ONE COULD HAVE FORESEEN THE UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT--- AND THAT'S JUST WHAT IT WAS!

SOON AFTER, IN COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT'S OFFICE...

SIR, TEST LAB REPORTS LIEUTENANT THOMAS DIED FROM OVER-EXPOSURE TO RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL! THE LETHAL SOURCE HAS BEEN LOCATED--- IT'S AN ALIEN ELEMENT OF THE URANIUM GROUP AND WAS RUBBED OVER HIS SHIP'S CONTROLS!

WHAT!--- SABOTAGE!





THEN THE CADETS WHO BROUGHT THE SHIP IN WERE EXPOSED, TOO!

STRONG, CONTACT THEM AT ONCE! HAVE THEM REPORT FOR AN IMMEDIATE RADIATION COUNT! THEN WE'LL TRY TO TRACK DOWN THE SABOTEUR!



MEANWHILE, AT THE DORMITORY:

HERE'S OUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME, ASTRO!

THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! LOOK AT THIS CLOSET--- THE THREE CADETS ASSIGNED THIS ROOM MUST BE HERE ALREADY!



WE CAN PUSH THE UNIFORMS OVER TO ONE SIDE AND MAKE A LITTLE ROOM FOR OUR---

DON'T TOUCH THOSE OUTFITS, JUNIOR! YOU MIGHT RUIN THE CREASES!

MANNING!



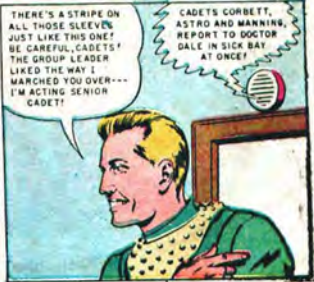
WELL, ISN'T THIS COZY! BUT IF THEY'VE BUNKED US TOGETHER, WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE PEACE!

AND A GOOD OPENING GESTURE WILL BE FOR MANNING TO CLEAR OUT OUR TWO-THIRDS OF THE CLOSET!



WHY HANG UP YOUR SUITS? YOU'LL FLUNK OUT OF THE ACADEMY BEFORE YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO WEAR THEM!

BY THE RINGS OF SATURN, IF YOU WON'T MAKE ROOM FOR US, I WILL!



THERE'S A STRIPE ON ALL THOSE SLEEVES! JUST LIKE THIS ONE! BE CAREFUL, CADETS! THE GROUP LEADER LIKED THE WAY I MARCHED YOU OVER--- I'M ACTING SENIOR CADET!

CADETS CORBETT, ASTRO AND MANNING, REPORT TO DOCTOR DALE IN SICK BAY AT ONCE!





I WONDER WHY THEY CALLED US IN? I DON'T SEE ANYONE ELSE FROM OUR GROUP!

RED TAPE, JUNIOR! YOU'VE GOT TO EXPECT IT AROUND HERE! THEY'LL PROBABLY HAVE US FILL OUT THE SAME MEDICAL FORMS WE FILLED OUT BEFORE!



SPEAKING OF FORMS, ARE YOU THE NURSE? WHY DON'T WE BLOW UP SOME METEOR DUST TOGETHER SOME NIGHT, AND I'LL GIVE YOU MY CASE HISTORY!

LUCKY WE'RE IN SICK BAY, SHE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND RELIEF HERE FOR THAT PAIN!



DON'T MIND THE BOY SCOUTS BACK THERE, HONEY! YOU KNOW, I'VE SUDDENLY DEVELOPED A WEAK HEART--- FOR YOU!

WHAT A SHAME! ONLY PERFECT SPECIMENS CAN STAY IN THE ACADEMY!



HONEY, ASK DOCTOR DALE IF THERE'S A MORE PERFECT SPECIMEN AROUND HERE!

I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU, CADET--- I AM DOCTOR DALE!



(L.S.) --- I--- I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING--- SIR--- ER--- MA'AM--- --- MISS!

THE THREE OF YOU REPORTED HANDLING THE CRUISER'S CONTROLS! THEY WERE RUBBED WITH A RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL THAT CAUSED LIEUTENANT THOMAS'S DEATH! WE WANT TO TAKE A RADIATION COUNT ON YOU IMMEDIATELY!



CADETS CORBETT AND ASTRO SHOW A FEW ROENTGENS OF EXPOSURE --- NOTHING DANGEROUS! BUT, MANNING, YOU DON'T SHOW SIGNS OF ANY EXPOSURE! YOU WERE IN THE CONTROL ROOM?

YES, BUT HE ONLY TALKED US IN! CHECK HIS TONGUE FOR RADIATION! I'LL BET IT'S PRETTY HOT!

WHY, YOU SPACELUG!



HOLD ON! SAVE YOUR BREATH---YOU'LL NEED IT WHEN YOU TAKE THE ACCELERATION TEST AND RIDE THE "BUMPS"!

MAYBE THAT WILL TAKE SOME OF THE SPACE GAS OUT OF HIM!



LATER, IN COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT'S OFFICE...

THE CADETS' RADIATION COUNT IS NEGATIVE! THE SCANNER UNITS ARE OUT SEARCHING NOW---WE SHOULD LOCATE THE SABOTEUR SOON! MEANWHILE, I'LL NEED YOUR HELP! WE'RE CONTINUING THE TRAINING SCHEDULE!

BUT I HAVE A PATROL SHIP READY FOR MY FLIGHT TO TITAN!



STRONG, YOU'LL PIONEER THE EXPLORATION OF TITAN, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS BEEN ABLE TO LAND ON THAT MOON DESPITE ITS STRANGE ATMOSPHERE! BUT RIGHT NOW, OUR JOB IS TO SHOW THAT SPY HE HASN'T STOPPED THE ACADEMY'S WORK! WE'RE STILL TRAINING THE CADETS!

VERY WELL, SIR! I'LL TAKE OVER THOMAS'S CLASS IN THE "BUMPS"!



AT THE "BUMPS" TEST SITE...

TOM, I'M BEGINNING TO WISH WE HADN'T COME OUT SO EARLY! THE LESS TIME I HAVE TO SEE THE ROLLER COASTER RIDE THEY'VE PLANNED FOR US, THE BETTER!

ASTRO! THERE'S SOMEONE BY THE TEST CAR--- AND HE WASN'T WEARING THE ACADEMY UNIFORM!



BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SINCE THE ALERT'S BEEN ON, ALL VISITORS HAVE BEEN CLEARED FROM THE GROUNDS AND THE SCANNER PATROLS ARE CHECKING FOR THE SABOTEUR!

WHOEVER HE WAS, HE DUCKED BEHIND THE CAR! QUICK!



NO ONE'S HERE! YOU WERE JUST IMAGINING THINGS, TOM!

NO, ASTRO! I'M POSITIVE I SAW SOMEONE!

AT EASE, CADETS! I SEE YOU TWO ARRIVED BEFORE THE OTHERS! WE DON'T USUALLY FIND CADETS PUSHING TO BE FIRST IN THE CAR, IT FALLS AT TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILES PER HOUR --- THE PRESSURE BEGINS AT THREE TIMES YOUR WEIGHT, OR THREE G'S! WE GO UP TO SEVEN!

I'VE TAKEN SIX, SIR, BUT I'M GLAD I DIDN'T EAT MUCH LUNCH!

I'LL TAKE IT DOWN ON A TRIAL RUN!

WAIT, SIR! I'M CERTAIN I SAW SOMEONE TINKERING WITH THE CAR BEFORE! I KNOW IT SOUNDS FOOLISH, BUT WITH A SABOTEUR KNOWN TO BE LOOSE ---



--- ALL RIGHT, CORBETT! YOU SHOULD TRY OUT FOR THE ACADEMY MAGAZINE, YOU HAVE A GOOD IMAGINATION! I'LL THROW ON THE ROBOT CONTROLS AND GIVE THE CAR A TEST RUN TO PROVE EVERYTHING IS SHIPSHAPE! STAND CLEAR OF THE JETS!

AS THE LEVER IS THROWN FORWARD, THE STERN JETS BLAST INTO LIFE, AND THE CAR MOVES FORWARD.

AIEE!

CAPTAIN STRONG!

BY JUPITER! SOMEONE IS IN THAT CAR!



LOOK! IT JUMPED THE TRACKS!

THE RAIL SAFETY CLAMPS MUST HAVE BEEN LOOSENED --- IT'S GOING TO CRASH!





**S**OON AFTER...

TOM, WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE WE WERE ORDERED FROM CLASS BY CAPTAIN STRONG AND TOLD TO REPORT TO THE POLARIS WITH FULL SPACE EQUIPMENT?

MAYBE WE'RE TAKING A PRACTICE RUN!

I WISH YOU TWO HAD TAKEN A RUN AND LEFT ME WITH DOCTOR DALE!



UNIT REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR!

YOU'VE ALL FLOWN BEFORE, I DON'T HAVE TO BRIEF YOU! CADET ASTRO, YOU WILL HANDLE COMMUNICATIONS! CADET MANNING, ASTRO-GATER AND TOPSIDE RADAR! CADET CORBETT, SECOND PILOT'S SEAT! TAKE YOUR STATIONS!

WE'RE READY TO RAISE SHIP, SIR!

YOU KNOW YOUR MISSION, I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL SUCCEED!

SPACEMAN'S LUCK TO YOU, STEVE!



**A**S THE CADETS TAKE THEIR STATIONS...

ATTENTION, CREW! FINAL CHECK! --- ENERGIZE PUMPS! START PUMPS! START FUEL AND REACTANTS!

PUMPS IN OPERATION, SIR!  
PRESSURE FORTY AND STEADY, SIR!

STAND BY FOR BLAST OFF! --- BLAST OFF IN FIVE SECONDS --- FOUR --- THREE --- TWO --- ONE --- ZERO!





THEY'RE OFF, JOAN! I HOPE THIS WILL CONVINCE THE TITANIANS OF OUR PEACEFUL INTENTIONS!

AND I HOPE THEIR INTENTIONS WILL BE PEACEFUL, TOO!



I TOLD HIM TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY! I'LL CALL HIM ON THE INTERCOM AGAIN!

THAT WAS A NICE CRACK, MANNING! TRYING TO GET ASTRO IN TROUBLE LIKE A REAL PAL?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, JUNIOR?



MEANWHILE, THE POLARIS ROCKETS ON...

SET ORBIT INCLINATIONS TITAN THREE DEGREES, TWENTY-EIGHT SECONDS --- ON COURSE, SIR!

CADET MANNING REPORTING IN, SIR!

NICE GOING, TOM! YOU HANDLED THAT COMPUTER LIKE A VETERAN!



WHERE'S ASTRO? I CALLED YOU BOTH!

I DON'T KNOW, SIR! MAYBE HE'S LOGGING SOME SACK TIME...



ASTRO! WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

SORRY, SIR! I WAS HAVING TROUBLE READING THE TELE-TRANSRECEIVER --- SOME ELECTRICAL DISTURBANCE IN THE AREA!

SPACE GREMLINS, MAYBE?



HOLD ON! THERE'S NO ROOM ON THIS SHIP FOR FIGHTING! YOU THREE ARE MAKING THIS TRIP WITH ME BECAUSE SOLAR GOMMAND WANTS IT TO LOOK LIKE A ROUTINE TRAINING FLIGHT TO THE TITANIANS--- BUT BEFORE IT'S OVER, WE MAY BE IN FOR A LOT OF UNSCHEDULED TROUBLE!

LATER, AS THE TRANS-SONIC SHIP  
ROCKETS TOWARDS SATURN'S  
LARGEST MOON...

RADAR WARNINGS, SIR!  
TWENTY TO THE MINUTE!

THAT MEANS  
WE'RE  
APPROACHING  
TITAN! ---  
ATTENTION  
CREW! --- STRAP  
IN TO LAND, THIS  
MAY BE TRICKY!



FORWARD WATCH REPORTING, SIR!  
SPECTROSCOPE BANDS INDICATE  
HEAVY METHANE CLOUD LAYER  
OVER TITAN --- CAN'T  
SEE THROUGH IT!

TITAN HAS AN ATMOS-  
PHERE! THAT MAKES  
HER UNIQUE  
AMONG SATURN'S  
MOONS, BUT THE  
MOST DANGEROUS  
TO LAND ON! ---  
SCAN FOR A SAFE SPOT  
WITH RADAR!



NOTHING MUCH  
TO GO BY, SIR! SNOW  
SEEMS TO BLANKET  
THE WHOLE SURFACE!

I'LL TAKE HER  
DOWN VISUALLY  
AS I DID ON MY  
OTHER FLIGHT!  
SWITCH THE  
MAGNIFYING  
SCREEN ON,  
TOM!

A YE, A YE,  
SIR!



RADAR WARNINGS  
INCREASING! FIFTY  
TO THE SECOND ---  
WE'RE HEADING FOR  
SOMETHING VERY  
SOLID!

AND ALL I CAN  
SEE ARE NICE,  
SOFT-LOOKING  
CLOUDS!



WE'VE GOT AN  
OPENING! --- PREPARE  
TO TURN TAIL AND  
BRAKE OUR LANDING!  
WE'RE NOSING  
DOWN!

CAPTAIN STRONG!  
THERE MUST BE  
SOLID ROCK UNDER  
THAT SNOW WE'RE  
HEADING FOR!

THROW ON THE  
JET BRAKES FAST,  
OR WE'LL BE THE  
FIRST EARTHEN TO  
LAND ON TITAN ---  
FOR KEEPS!





BRAKES ON,  
SIR! THE TAIL'S  
GOING DOWN!

FINE! WE'LL TOUCHDOWN  
IN FIVE SECONDS ---  
STAND BY!



**T**HE POLARIS COMES TO REST ON THE  
UNEXPLORED SATELLITE

I'LL BREAK OUT THE  
SPACE SUITS! TITAN  
LOOKS MIGHTY  
COLD!

WHAT ABOUT WEAPONS,  
SIR, IN CASE THEY GIVE  
US A *WARM* RECEPTION?

MANNING, WE'LL  
TAKE OUR PARALO-RAY  
GUNS --- BUT ONLY FOR  
*DEFENSE!*



BY THE  
CRATERS OF  
LUNA! VENUS  
WAS NEVER  
LIKE THIS!

OKAY, JUNIOR, YOU  
AND ASTRO TAKE  
IN THE VIEW...  
CAPTAIN STRONG  
AND I WILL ACCOM-  
PLISH THE  
MISSION!

FORGET  
THE ICE,  
ASTRO! TAKE  
A LOOK AT  
SATURN!

WE'LL *ALL* DO  
THAT, MANNING!  
FIRST, WEHAVE  
TO FIND THE  
TITANIANS!



THEY MUST HIBERNATE  
ON THIS DEEP FREEZE!  
I DON'T SEE A SIGN  
OF LIFE!

THAT ICE CLIFF  
LOOKS LIKE A  
MAIN LANDMARK!  
WE'LL SPLIT UP  
AND CIRCLE IT!  
ASTRO, COME  
WITH ME!



WELL, LOOK WHO  
I GOT FOR A  
PARTNER!

STOW IT, MANNING!  
WE'VE GOT WORK TO  
DO! COME ON!



WHO COULD LIVE HERE?  
IF THE COLD DIDN'T  
FREEZE THEM, THE METHANE  
ATMOSPHERE WOULD POISON  
THEM! THERE'S NO  
LIFE HERE!

THEN WHO WAS  
THE VISITOR  
WHO TRIED  
TO KILL  
CAPTAIN  
STRONG? A  
SPACE GREMLIN?



**A** FEW MOMENTS LATER

HOPE YOU HAD  
BETTER LUCK  
THAN OURS!

NOT A SIGN OF LIFE ON  
OUR SIDE! WE'LL RAISE  
SHIP AND CIRCLE  
SLOWLY, TILL WE FIND A  
MORE LIKELY SPOT  
AND LAND THERE!



**A**ND AS THEY RETURN TO WHERE THEY LEFT THE SHIP...

CAPTAIN STRONG!  
THE POLARIS ---  
IT'S GONE!

BY JUPITER! IT CAN'T BE!  
WE MUST BE IN THE  
WRONG PLACE!



NO, SIR! I TOOK  
A BEARING BEFORE  
WE LEFT! TOM'S  
AT THE EXACT SPOT  
WHERE THE POLARIS  
WAS!

ASTRO,  
YOU'RE RIGHT!  
LOOK!



THERE'S THE  
POLARIS ---  
AT THE BOTTOM  
OF THIS ICE  
SHAFT!

AND THERE'S LIFE  
ON TITAN, ALL RIGHT!  
THOSE CHARACTERS  
MUST BELONG TO THE  
POLAR BEAR CLUB ---  
THEY'RE DRESSED FOR  
THE TROPICS!

THIS PROVES THERE  
IS A WAY TO GET  
BELOW TITAN'S  
SURFACE --- WE'VE  
GOT TO FIND IT  
FAST OR THEY MAY  
DAMAGE THE  
POLARIS!





IF THEY THINK THEY'VE TRAPPED US—

— PUT UP YOUR GUN, MANNING! YOU'D BETTER LEARN NOW, SPACE CADETS DON'T START HOSTILITIES, THEY TRY TO PRESERVE PEACE! EARTH, MARS AND VENUS ARE IN THE SOLAR ALLIANCE, WE'LL OFFER TITAN A CHANCE TO JOIN, TOO! BUT A PARALO-RAY GUN DOESN'T LOOK LIKE AN INVITATION!

LOOKS LIKE THE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO THEM! WE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE FROM HERE!

BY THE GAS PITS OF VENUS, I DON'T LIKE WAITING!

HEY! WHO'S BEING FUNNY?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MANNING? CAN'T YOU KEEP YOUR BALANCE?

OWW!

SIR! MANNING MUST BE ON SOME SORT OF A TRANSMISSION BELT... HE'S MOVING, BUT WE AREN'T!

YOU'RE RIGHT!

BY THE RINGS OF SATURN, THAT WALL OF ICE IS PARTING!

HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA OF LEAVING ME?

WE'RE NOT LEAVING YOU, MANNING, YOU'RE MOVING AWAY FROM US! BUT WE'LL JOIN YOU! HOP ON, BOYS!

I'M ON FOR THE RIDE! I DON'T SEE ANY BRASS RINGS! WONDER WHAT THEY GIVE FOR PRIZES ON TITAN?



THERE'S A CROSSWALK HERE, SIR!

I'M CERTAIN THEY'RE NOT MOVING THIS BELT ALONG FOR OUR CONVENIENCE! SOMEONE MUST BE FURTHER DOWN THE LINE AND HEADING THIS WAY! CORBETT AND MANNING, JUMP OFF HERE! ASTRO AND I WILL CONTINUE HITCHING A RIDE!

BUT IF SOMEONE IS FOLLOWING...

--- YOU'LL SHOW HIM YOUR GREAT BIG SMILE, MANNING!

KEEP ALERT AND MAINTAIN CONTACT BY AUDIO-PHONE! YOU'LL STAY HERE TILL WE RETURN! THAT'S AN ORDER, CORBETT!

THE BELT'S STOPPED! THE ICE DOOR IS CLOSING, BUT NO ONE FOLLOWED THEM THROUGH!

AND NOW WE CAN'T FOLLOW THEM, EITHER! I'D BETTER PHONE CAPTAIN STRONG AND TELL HIM!



CADET CORBETT TO CAPTAIN STRONG --- COME IN, SIR --- COME IN, CAPTAIN STRONG! --- FUNNY, ALL I GET IS A REGULAR BUZZING!

SOMEDAY YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO WORK THESE GADGETS, JUNIOR, AND YOU WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE! WATCH!



CADET MANNING, CALLING CAPTAIN STRONG! COME IN --- COME IN! --- JUST BUZZING!

MANNING, IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE ELECTRICAL INTERFERENCE! SOMEONE IS DELIBERATELY TRYING TO CUT US OFF FROM THEM!

MEANWHILE...

ASTRO, THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE! THE CONVEYOR BELT HAS STOPPED, AND THERE'S THE POLARIS! IT LOOKS DESERTED! WE MAY HAVE A CHANCE TO BOARD SHIP AND CONTACT SPACEPORT ON EARTH!

I STILL DON'T SEE HOW THEY GOT THE SHIP DOWN---OOOPS!



SLIPPING INTO AN ICE CREVICE, ASTRO TRIES TO FREE HIS FOOT IN VAIN...

THE WARMTH FROM YOUR SUIT MUST HAVE MELTED THE ICE ENOUGH TO MAKE A POCKET THERE, BUT NOW IT'S FREEZING AROUND YOUR FOOT!

GO FOR THE SHIP, SIR! I-I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!



I'M NOT LEAVING YOU TRAPPED HERE, ASTRO! I'LL CHOP YOU OUT OF THIS!

I---IT'S GETTING TIGHTER, SIR!



AS FAST AS I CHIP AWAY, THE ICE FREEZES AGAIN! WIGGLE YOUR TOES, THE FRICTION WILL CREATE SOME HEAT TO HELP MELT THE ICE!

I'LL WIGGLE MY TOES JUST AS LONG AS I HAVE THEM, SIR! AS A VENUSIAN, I'M OUT OF MY ELEMENT IN ICE!



BUT TOO LATE--- THERE ARE THE TITANIANS AND THEY CERTAINLY DON'T LOOK FRIENDLY!

OUT!





WE HAVE COME IN PEACE! TAKE US TO YOUR RULER!

YOU'LL BE TAKEN TO HIM--- IN CHAINS!



MY GUN'S READY, SIR!

HOLD FIRE, ASTRO! LEAD US, BUT DON'T TRY TO TAKE US PRISONERS!

CALL YOURSELF WHAT YOU WANT! YOU WILL BE DISARMED--- THEN FOLLOW!



**S**OON AFTER...

BY THE WINDS OF SPACE, THAT ICE WALL IS MOVING ASIDE!

THE ELECTRONIC BEAM FROM MY BELT CONTROLS IT! WE ON TITAN ARE SELF-SUFFICIENT AND INDEPENDENT! OUR LEADER KNOWS HOW TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO'D ENSLAVE US! FORWARD!



HERE ARE TWO EARTHMEN! THE OTHER INVADERS WILL BE TAKEN QUICKLY, LEADER!

WE ARE *NOT* INVADERS! I AM CAPTAIN STRONG OF THE SOLAR GUARDS! OUR ORGANIZATION IS DEDICATED TO PEACE!



**CAPTAIN STRONG!** THE EARTHLING WHO FIRST PIERCED OUR CLOUD SCREEN AND SPIED UPON US, THERE, WHO FOLLOWED YOU TO EARTH, TOLD US YOUR NAME --- AND NOW HE IS DEAD! IS THAT YOUR EVIDENCE OF PEACE?

HE WAS KILLED IN A TRAP HE PREPARED FOR ME--- AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT! A MIS-UNDERSTANDING!

WE UNDERSTAND YOU PERFECTLY! YOUR SHIP CAME BACK TO LEAD YOUR INVASION FLEET! WE DIRECTED RADIATION RAYS AT THE SURFACE AND MELTED A CHAMBER FOR YOUR CRAFT BELOW--- YOUR SHIPS WON'T FIND THEIR GUIDE WHEN THEY PREPARE TO STRIKE!

NO ONE FOLLOWS! MY CREW ARE CADETS ON A TRAINING FLIGHT, NOT ATTACKERS!

WE HAVE BEEN INVADED BY OTHERS! THE SAME END ALWAYS PROMPTED THEM--- GREED TO POSSESS OUR LIFE-SUSTAINING ELEMENT, OUR PRICELESS RADIO-ACTIVE ORE! WE CAN DRIVE OFF THE NEW EXPLOITERS, TOO!

I DON'T KNOW WHO THE "OTHERS" WERE, BUT THEY DIDN'T BELONG TO THE SOLAR ALLIANCE OF EARTH, VENUS AND MARS, WHOM I REPRESENT! SEND EMISSARIES TO EARTH WITH US AND WE'LL SIGN A PACT FOR LASTING PEACE!

PROMISES WON'T GAIN YOU FREEDOM! TITAN NO LONGER AWAITS HER ATTACKERS--- WE SHALL STRIKE FIRST!

LEADER TO TITAN WAR SQUADRON! RAISE SHIPS AT ONCE--- TARGET, EARTH!

WAIT!

CALL BACK YOUR SHIPS! YOU'RE STARTING A NEEDLESS WAR! WE'VE COME IN PEACE--- THREE CADETS AND... IN AN UNARMED TRAINING SHIP!

AND WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO?


THAT'S SOMETHING YOU WON'T LEARN FROM ME!

TAKE HIM TO THE THOUGHT VIEWER! WE'LL FIND OUT QUICK ENOUGH!

YES, LEADER!









IT'S A GEIGER COUNTER  
I ALWAYS CARRY WITH ME!  
AND ACCORDING TO ITS  
CHATTER, THIS AREA IS  
PLENTY HOT!



STAYING BACK AT  
THE INTERSECTION  
IS LIABLE TO BE  
PRETTY HOT, TOO!  
KEEP GOING,  
ROGER!




JUNIOR, THIS IS WHERE  
I GET OFF! THERE IS SOME  
POWERFUL RADIOACTIVE  
MATERIAL AROUND HERE,  
AND I'M NOT LEAD  
LINED!




MANNING,  
THAT'S IT!  
WHAT KILLED  
LIEUTENANT  
THOMAS...?  
OVER-EXPOSURE  
TO A STRANGE  
RADIOACTIVE  
ELEMENT THAT  
CAME FROM TITAN!  
IT'S SOURCE MUST  
BE AHEAD!




ALL THE  
MORE REASON  
TO TURN  
BACK!



MANNING, THE ICE IS  
MELTING HERE, THE  
TITANS WALK AROUND  
IN THEIR CITY BELOW  
THE ICE DRESSED LIKE  
SUN BATHERS! CAN'T YOU  
SEE IT--- THAT RADIO-  
ACTIVE SOURCE MUST  
SUPPLY THE CENTRAL  
HEATING FOR THE  
ENTIRE CITY!




IT ALSO SUPPLIES A  
ONE WAY TICKET TO  
ETERNITY! I'M GOING  
BACK! NICE KNOWING  
YOU!



HOLD ON! IF I'M RIGHT,  
I HAVE A PLAN THAT  
MIGHT FREE CAPTAIN  
STRONG AND ASTRO!  
YOU'RE NOT GOING  
CHICKEN ON ME, WE'RE  
GOING AHEAD!



I DON'T WANT TO  
PLAY HERO,  
JUNIOR!



DON'T FORGET THE  
"REPUTATION" YOU  
ESTABLISHED FOR  
YOURSELF WHEN YOU  
TOLD HOW YOU TALKED  
ASTRO AND ME DOWN  
ON THAT ROCKET  
CRUISER! LET'S LIVE  
UP TO IT, MANNING!



I DON'T NEED A  
GEIGER COUNTER  
NOW--- THAT'S A  
RADIANT LIGHT  
GLOWING AHEAD!



THEN WE'VE  
FOUND THE  
SOURCE!



LOOK! THAT  
STONE CORE IS A  
SOLID RADIO-  
ACTIVE ELEMENT!

NO WONDER THEY CAN  
KEEP LIFE WARM ON TITANI  
THE ENERGY FROM THAT  
COULD HEAT AND POWER  
THIS WHOLE SUBTERRANEAN  
ICE CITY!



OUR SUITS DON'T  
PROVIDE ENOUGH  
INSULATION! I'D LIKE  
TO GET SOMETHING  
BETWEEN ME AND THAT  
RADIOACTIVE ROCK,  
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY  
YOU!

THAT LEAD SHIELD  
WILL PROTECT US,  
ROGER... LET'S  
GRAB THE  
OPERATOR!



OH-OH!  
HE'S SEEN  
US!

HIT HIM HIGH,  
MANNING?  
I'LL TACKLE  
HIM LOW!



TOM, HE'S PUSHING ME  
BEYOND THE SHIELD---  
MY EYES CAN'T TAKE  
IT! I'M GETTING  
FLARE BURN!

THIS BLASTED  
SPACE SUIT'S  
SLOWING ME UP!  
HANG ON, MANNING!  
I'LL TRY TO GET  
RID OF HIM!



ABOUT TIME! IF I WASN'T PINNED DOWN, I'D HAVE FINISHED HIM OFF MYSELF WITHOUT WAITING FOR YOU TO PLAY AROUND WHILE I WAS EXPOSED TO THAT RADIANT LIGHT!

DON'T BLOW YOUR JETS! TIE HIM UP WITH HIS BELT, WHILE I TRY TO FIGURE OUT THIS CONTROL PANEL!



HE REFUSES TO THINK WHERE HE LEFT HIS TWO CADETS! HE KEEPS WONDERING WHY HIS EXPOSED HAND ISN'T FROZEN! TAKE THEM AWAY, AND DISPOSE OF THEM!

DID YOU HEAR THAT, MANNING? I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT HOW TO SHUT OFF THAT HEAT SOURCE --- THEN I CAN PUT THE TITANIANS IN THE DEEP FREEZE TILL WE RESCUE ASTRO AND CAPTAIN STRONG!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, JUNIOR? WRAP UP THAT RADIOACTIVE STONE IN INSULATING PAPER? I'LL STAY RIGHT HERE WHILE YOU TIE UP THAT PACKAGE!

THERE MUST BE A WAY TO LOWER AND RAISE THE TEMPERATURE BELOW TITAN'S SURFACE! NO, THIS LEVER DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD!




LET'S USE THIS JOKER FOR A SHIELD, GET BACK TO THE POLARIS AND CONTACT A SOLAR ALLIANCE SQUADRON TO START SHOOTING UP THE PLACE!

WE'LL TRY A PEACEFUL WAY FIRST! LET'S SEE WHAT THESE TWO SWITCHES DO!

GET AWAY FROM THERE --- BEFORE --- HEY!


THE PLATFORM'S MOVING BACK!






WAIT, MANNING! THERE'S A WHOLE METAL SHIELD RISING FROM THE GROUND! IT'S GOING TO COMPLETELY ENCIRCLE AND COVER THE RADIOACTIVE ROCK! IT MUST BE MADE OF LEAD! THAT'S HOW THE TITANIANS CAN PROTECT THEIR ROCK FROM SEIZURE AND TURN THEIR CITY INTO A FREEZING TRAP!

THIS IS ONE RIDE YOU CAN SOLO, JUNIOR!




THE GEIGER COUNTER HARDLY REGISTERS--- THAT SHIELD REALLY WORKS!

AND ANYONE *NOT* IN AN INSULATED SUIT IS GOING TO GET MIGHTY COLD VERY FAST!




THEN WE CAN PASS RIGHT BY THE GUARDS, THEY'LL BE FROZEN STIFF, AND GET STRONG AND ASTAG! THEY'RE WEARING SPACE SUITS!

THIS PORTABLE HOUSING MUST BE A ROBOT CONTROL BOX! LET'S GO!



CADET MANNING TO CAPTAIN STRONG! TALK US IN, SIR! I THINK I'VE DOPED OUT A WAY TO BEAT THE TITANIANS!

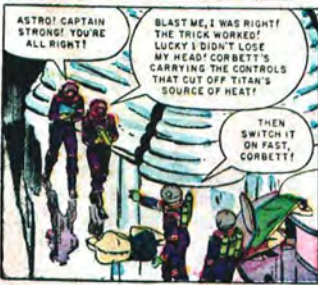
MANNING! THIS IS CAPTAIN STRONG! WHAT'S GOING ON? MY HAND SUDDENLY FEELS COLD--- I'M DONNING MY SPACE GLOVE AND THE TITANIANS HERE ARE MOVING LIKE LEAD FIGURES!



JUST A LITTLE TRICK I DEvised TO PUT THEM ON ICE, SIR! WE'VE CUT OFF OFF THEIR HEAT! KEEP CONTACT OPEN, WE'LL COME IN ON YOUR BEAM!

FOLLOW ME, MANNING, BUT KEEP BEHIND ME! WE DON'T WANT THE "BRAINS" OF THE EXPEDITION EXPOSED TO ANY SUDDEN DANGER!

**M**ENHIRE





AYE, AYE, SIR!

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE TOO FAR GONE YET! THEY MUST HAVE SOME NATURAL IMMUNITY TO THE EXTREME COLD HERE!



HE'S MOVING, SIR!

Y-YOU HAVE LOWERED THE LEAD SHIELD! YOUR INTENTIONS ARE PEACEFUL!



BUT THAT FLEET OF STRANGE ROCKETS HEADING HERE DIDN'T LOOK FRIENDLY TO ME! CALL YOUR CREWS TO RAISE SHIPS AND PREPARE TO MEET THEM!

I CAN'T! ALL OF TITAN'S ARMED FLEET FLIES TO EARTH! THEY CANNOT RETURN IN TIME!



THERE SHOULD BE A SOLAR ALLIANCE SQUADRON PATROL NEAR JUPITER! CAN I CONTACT THEM?

YES! THERE'S A FREQUENCY-SELECTOR DIAL! ADJUST IT! --- BUT EVEN THEY'RE TOO FAR AWAY!



SOLAR ALLIANCE CRUISER FROM CAPTAIN STRONG! I AM ON TITAN! WE NEED ARMED SHIPS TO RESIST A POTENTIAL ATTACK! COME IN!

SOLAR ALLIANCE SQUADRON SEVEN TO CAPTAIN STRONG--- WHEN CONTACT COULD NOT BE MADE WITH THE POLARIS, WE WERE INSTRUCTED TO INVESTIGATE! WE ARE NOW NEARING SATURN AND WILL PROCEED READY FOR ATTACK!



WE'RE IN LUCK! THOSE CRUISERS WILL BE HERE IN TIME! OUR SHIP IS UNARMED, BUT, I'D LIKE TO SCOUT FOR THEM! CAN WE RAISE THE POLARIS FROM ITS ICE CHAMBER?

QUITE EASILY! YOU CAN BLAST OFF FROM THE CHAMBER! COME!



TITAN NEEDS ITS ORE  
TO SUSTAIN LIFE THERE!  
LAND PEACEFULLY AND  
WE WILL TRY TO  
NEGOTIATE A TRADE  
ALLIANCE!

WHAT WE  
NEED---  
WE  
TAKE!

IT'S NO-USE--- THEY  
WANT WAR! OUR HELP  
HASN'T ARRIVED YET---  
WE'VE GOT TO DELAY  
THE ENEMY SHIPS!  
PREPARE FOR AN  
EVASIVE ACTION!

AYE, AYE, SIR!  
THAT'S ABOUT ALL  
WE CAN DO---  
WE'RE---  
UNARMED!

AS THE WARRING  
FLEET LAUNCHES  
THE ATTACK, THE  
POLARIS STREAKS  
BRAZENLY ACROSS  
ITS PATH...

GIVE ME EMERGENCY  
POWER, ASTRO! WE'RE  
PLAYING TAG AND  
I DON'T WANT  
TO BE IT!

HERE THEY  
COME, SIR!

SUDDENLY, THE POLARIS IS STAGGERED BY A  
SLEDGEHAMMER BLOW --- SOMEWHERE  
ASTERN...

TH-THAT  
GOT US,  
SIR!

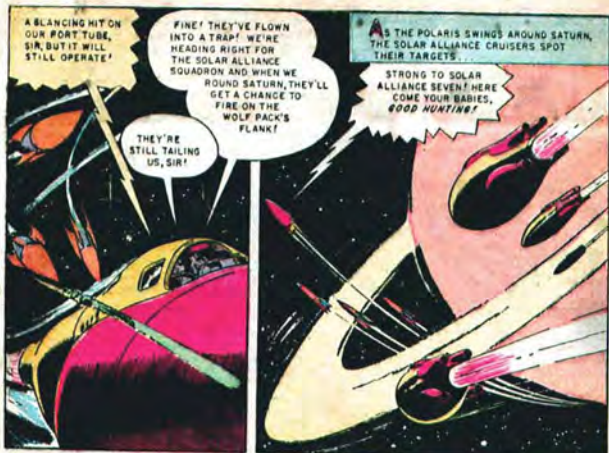
ALL STATIONS CHECK IN!  
ASTRO, DID THAT HIT OUR  
TUBES? ---  
COME IN!

YOU'VE DIVERTED THEM  
FROM TITAN, SIR, BUT  
THEY'VE GOT THE RAY  
GUNS BLASTING AT US!

WE HAVE TO KEEP JUST  
OUT OF RANGE TILL  
OUR CRUISERS CAN  
TAKE OVER; I'LL THROW  
ON THE PORT JETS, WE'RE  
GOING TO QUARTER  
FAST!







A BLANCING HIT ON OUR PORT TUBE, SIR, BUT IT WILL STILL OPERATE!

FINE! THEY'VE FLOWN INTO A TRAP! WE'RE HEADING RIGHT FOR THE SOLAR ALLIANCE SQUADRON AND WHEN WE ROUND SATURN, THEY'LL GET A CHANCE TO FIRE ON THE WOLF PACK'S FLANK!

THEY'RE STILL TAILING US, SIR!

AS THE POLARIS SWINGS AROUND SATURN, THE SOLAR ALLIANCE CRUISERS SPOT THEIR TARGETS...

STRONG TO SOLAR ALLIANCE SEVEN! HERE COME YOUR BABIES, GOOD HUNTING!



SOLAR ALLIANCE LEADER TO CAPTAIN STRONG, THANKS FOR FLUSHING THE SPACE VULTURES! TALLY-NO!




LOOK! THEY GOT ONE OF THE ENEMY'S SHIPS, SIR!

YES, BUT OUR LEAD SHIP'S IN TROUBLE! WE'RE GOING TO ITS AID!

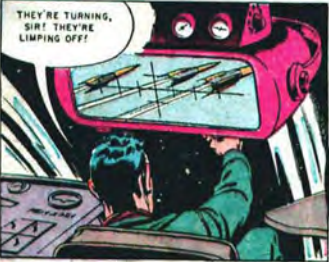


WHAT CAN WE DO, SIR?


WE'RE GOING TO TAIL UP SHARPLY BY THAT ENEMY SHIP AND SCORCH IT WITH OUR ROCKET BLAST! THAT'LL MAKE IT "HOT" FOR HIM!



**S**WERVING CLOSE TO THE ATTACKING SHIP, THE POLARIS TURNS TAIL AND THE EXHAUST OF RADIOACTIVE HEAT BLASTS THE ATTACKER...



THEY'RE TURNING, SIR! THEY'RE LIMPING OFF!




CAPTAIN STRONG TO SOLAR ALLIANCE SQUADRON, NICE WORK! YOU'VE SENT THEM BACK TO THE BUSH LEAGUES IN OUTER SPACE! STAND BY TO COVER US, WE'RE GOING TO TOUCHDOWN ON TITAN!



YOU HAVE MADE OUR ENEMY YOURS --- YOUR GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN!

THANKS! WHOEVER DESTROYS THE SOLAR PEACE IS OUR ENEMY! NOW I WANT TO CONTACT COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT AND REPORT IN!



CAPTAIN STRONG CALLING COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT! THE UNKNOWN ENEMY'S FLEET HAS BEEN DRIVEN OFF! TITAN IS CONVINCED OF OUR PEACEFUL INTENTIONS!

GOOD WORK, STRONG, BUT THE DANGER ISN'T OVER! WHILE SQUADRON SEVEN WAS PULLED OFF ITS PATROL, A STRANGE FLEET SLIPPED BY FROM THE REGION OF SATURN AND THEY'RE HEADING FOR EARTH RIGHT NOW!



# MARS

This photograph of Mars shows how closely it resembles earth. The north polar ice cap is exactly the same as the ice cap surrounding the North Pole on earth and there is, quite probably, a torrid zone just like ours on the middle belt of the planet, closest to the sun. When seen in the night sky, it is very easy to identify because of its red, reflected light.

